

# Co-Design of Strain-Actuated Solar Arrays for Spacecraft Precision Pointing and Jitter Reduction

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This work presents a novel spacecraft attitude control architecture using strain-actuated solar arrays (SASA) that does not require the use of conventional attitude control hardware. SASA enables attitude slewing maneuvers and precision-pointing (image acquisition) stares, while simultaneously suppressing structural vibrations. Distributed piezoelectric actuators help achieve higher precision, higher bandwidth, and quieter operation than reaction wheels. To understand the design tradeoffs for this architecture, a framework for the integrated design of distributed structural geometry and distributed control is presented. The physical properties of the array are modeled and designed with respect to a piecewise linear distributed thickness profile. The distributed control is a voltage profile across the array modeled as a spatially continuous function. The dynamics of the system are modeled using a coupled ODE-PDE system using extended generalizations for hybrid coordinate systems. The combined physical- and control-system design, or co-design problem is investigated to understand the optimal performance of the system. Single-axis slew maneuvers of 7.2 milli-radians or 1485 arc seconds are achieved for a representative spacecraft model without increasing array mass or reducing array planform area. From additional tradeoff studies, a design criteria is revealed for the array structure and control strategy based on the optimal design tradeoff between large array inertia and fast structural dynamics. Moreover, the fundamental limits on SASA slew angle magnitude are demonstrated using an intuitive pseudo-rigid body dynamic model.

## Nomenclature

$\ell$	= absolute locations of the boundaries of the piecewise linear segments
$\eta$	= dynamic coefficients for Galerkin approximating functions
$\gamma$	= control basis functions

	$\phi$	= Galerkin approximating functions
	$\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}_{\text{eq}}$	= co-design inequality and equality constraints
30	$\mathbf{f}$	= derivative function
	$\mathbf{h}$	= thicknesses of the boundaries of the piecewise linear segments
	$\mathbf{q}$	= dynamic coefficients for control basis functions
	$\mathbf{x}_c$	= control-system design variables
	$\mathbf{x}_p$	= physical-system design variables
35	$\delta$	= array displacement angle at the root
	$\ell$	= total array length
	$\epsilon$	= distributed array strain
	$\mu$	= damping coefficient of the composite array
	$\rho_b, \rho_p$	= density of the base array and piezoelectric layer
40	$\theta$	= bus angle
	$\xi$	= distributed array displacement, or co-design state
	$b$	= bias component of disturbance moment
	$c$	= distributed proportionality coefficient between moment and voltage
	$d$	= disturbance moment on the bus
45	$d_{31}$	= ratio of strain and electric field applied to piezoelectric actuator
	$E$	= total Young's modulus of the composite array
	$E_b, E_p$	= Young's moduli of the base array and piezoelectric layer
	$h_n$	= location of neutral axis of the composite array
	$h_b, h_p$	= thickness of the base array and piezoelectric layer
50	$I$	= total second moment of area of the composite array
	$I_b, I_p$	= second moment of area of the base array and piezoelectric layer
	$J$	= objective function
	$j$	= jitter component of disturbance moment
	$J_\theta, J_\delta$	= moment of inertia of the bus and array
55	$M$	= distributed control moment

$m$	= mass of the composite array
$m_R$	= mass per unit length of the composite array
$m_{Rb}, m_{Rp}$	= mass per unit length of the base array and piezoelectric layer
$r$	= bus radius
60 $R_{\text{eff}}$	= effective inertia ratio of the bus-array system
$t$	= time variable
$t_0, \bar{t}, t_f$	= initial time, slewing time, and final time
$V$	= distributed control voltage
$w$	= array width
65 $x$	= point location on the array from the root

## I. Introduction

Advancements in spacecraft technology accelerate discovery in Earth and space sciences; faster reorientation and ultra-quiet jitter-free operation for space observatories and optical links have the potential to transform the rate and quality of data obtained for scientific investigation.<sup>1,2</sup> Scientific needs drive exceptionally stringent spacecraft pointing and control requirements, which in turn demand new strategies for space vehicle design and control.<sup>3,4</sup> Traditionally, Reaction Wheel Assemblies (RWAs)—momentum exchanging flywheels—have been used for attitude control but they have been deemed problematic for many science missions because of RWA disturbances and reliability concerns.<sup>5</sup> One alternative control strategy intended to overcome some of these problems used robotic appendages with rigid links.<sup>6</sup> The strategy proposed here uses existing appendages (solar arrays) with distributed actuation to achieve high-precision attitude control. Strain-actuated solar arrays (SASAs), which employ distributed piezoelectric material actuators, provide high accuracy and bandwidth for spacecraft attitude control, thereby supporting quiet operation for high-precision scientific instruments. Additionally, the dual use of the same spacecraft component, i.e. solar arrays, for power generation and precision attitude control reduces payload delivery costs.

A unique capability of the proposed SASA pointing architecture is to perform attitude slewing maneuvers in addition to suppressing structural vibrations. Although the current bending limit of the arrays bounds the magnitude of the attitude maneuvers to the order of  
85 milli-radians or arc minutes, these advancements are important for high precision pointing, and when combined with other actuation technology for large reorientations may provide a feasible replacement for RWAs to improve pointing accuracy and reliability. Thus, the SASA control system is proposed as part of a hierarchical attitude control system where large-scale reorientations are carried out by magnetorquers or micro-thrusters. After the pointing target  
90 has been acquired, the SASA control system performs small-scale reorientations and pointing stability in the presence of jitter disturbances.

Strain-actuated solar arrays for precision pointing will require the arrays to behave more like a flexible structure than a rigid one. Space structures by necessity are extremely lightweight and flexible but vibrations from RWAs, reorientation maneuvers, and other dis-  
95 turbances degrade performance. These factors have given rise to the extensively-studied topic of Control-Structure Interaction (CSI). Most CSI literature has concentrated on reducing structural vibration through active damping,<sup>4,7</sup> i.e., using control systems to actively damp lower-frequency structural vibration modes without exciting higher-frequency modes.<sup>8-10</sup> This design paradigm has led to design rules, such as placing actuators according  
100 to locations of high strain for important structural modes.<sup>8,11</sup> If the design objective is different from vibration reduction alone (e.g., more sophisticated motion control), then CSI rules may produce suboptimal results. As an illustrative example, consider Skylab where part of the control effort goes to reducing vibration and getting flexible bodies to behave as rigid bodies, leaving only the remaining control effort for productive tasks.<sup>9</sup> Instead of using the  
105 proxy control objective of eliminating flexible behavior, a more elegant solution would be to improve overall system performance by working with elastic dynamics rather than fighting against them. In the integrated design and control study presented here we seek to utilize the flexible body dynamics to our advantage to provide new levels of system performance. Instead of using distributed actuation of solar arrays to damp out vibration as the primary

objective, it is used to control the spacecraft orientation as the primary objective.

Piezoelectric material actuators (PEMAs)<sup>12–14</sup> are a proven solution for distributed actuation.<sup>15,16</sup> Applying voltage across PEMAs bonded to or embedded within structures induces strain, causing the structure to deform (bend, twist, elongate, or contract depending on design). PEMA-based intelligent structures outperform conventional point-actuated structures,<sup>4,17</sup> in terms of mass, fast dynamic response, and high precision.<sup>18</sup> Although piezoelectric actuators have been used for structural active damping, they have not been used for slewing control of structures due to their small stroke. The proposed SASA architecture, however, does not slew the array structure about a revolute joint, but bends it to slew the bus using conservation of angular momentum. In this way, the SASA system implements the novel functionality of small-scale attitude control. Since there are small strain limits on array bending, the small PEMA stroke does not limit this application. Furthermore, the use of piezoelectric actuators allows for quiet operation for sensitive instruments.

The distributed actuation of intelligent structures provides tremendous design flexibility. This opens up new opportunities for system performance, but also increases design difficulty.<sup>18,19</sup> Although CSI has studied the problem of actuator and sensor placement for the controls of structures,<sup>8,11</sup> the co-design work presented here considers not only the design of the actuator system but also of a distributed structure for optimal active performance. Furthermore, the use of open-loop distributed control allows us to obtain insights for actuator placement and to investigate limits of performance.

Intelligent structures are highly-coupled systems, yet structural and control aspects are typically designed in sequence,<sup>8,20,21</sup> motivated by the need to simplify the design problem and to fit the structure of existing design organizations.<sup>9</sup> Sequential methods cannot fully exploit synergy between structural and control design.<sup>22,23</sup> More recently, co-design (combined physical- and control-system design) has been introduced as a more general methodology that simultaneously optimizes structures and controls without the need for major simplifying assumptions. Co-design aids engineers in treating the intelligent structure design problem in a more comprehensive manner.<sup>22,23</sup> For example, co-design has been used in the exploration

of tradeoffs between plant redesign cost and system performance (energy consumption) in applications involving counterbalanced robotic manipulators.<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, it has been  
140 shown that co-design can yield solutions with significant performance improvements<sup>25,26</sup> and at lower costs than CSI iterated sequential methods.<sup>23,27,28</sup> This type of methods typically performs optimization of the design vector at one level while performing system analysis, i.e. finding a feasible solution, in a second (lower) level. If the system analysis problem does not have a unique solution, the CSI iterated sequential method may converge to a suboptimal  
145 solution.<sup>28</sup> In contrast, nested co-design methods may define convex optimization problems in a second level for the control design of certain systems, e.g., dynamical systems that are linear in the states and the controls, that yield solutions that are not only feasible but also globally optimal.<sup>23,29</sup>

In most previous co-design studies, the physical aspects of the system design have been  
150 managed in a very simplified manner. For example, physical system (plant) design decisions have often been limited to actuator placement.<sup>30,31</sup> Many co-design studies have used simplified plant models<sup>9,17,24,32</sup> that do not support exploration of changes to distributed geometric structural design, preventing full exploitation of the design synergy between structural tailoring and distributed control system design. A more ideal co-design method supports changes  
155 to distributed structural properties (e.g., changing structural shape affects how inertial and stiffness properties vary spatially). Structural tailoring coupled with control design has long been recognized as an important, yet formidable problem.<sup>33</sup> Although there are examples of tailoring passive system dynamics to work optimally with active control using lumped plant stiffness, damping, and mass parameters as design variables,<sup>9</sup> these methods cannot  
160 be extended to distributed parameter systems.

To summarize, much is known regarding the design of control systems and actuators for intelligent structures, but only if the structural design is held fixed. A few examples of fully-integrated design exist, but only with simplified treatment of structural design. Since the proposed SASA pointing architecture involves inherent dynamic coupling between control  
165 actuation and flexible structural dynamics, it is a good case for a co-design study. In this

work, distributed geometry—specifically, distributed array structure thickness—is optimized simultaneously with distributed moment control of the array structure.

An initial study of the SASA concept was performed previously, focusing on attitude control, to demonstrate its feasibility. It was shown that the spacecraft bus orientation can be controlled by the appropriate bending of the arrays using a pseudo-rigid body dynamic model (PRBDM). A more recent study has further developed realistic feedback control systems suitable for SASA architectures.<sup>34–36</sup> Underactuated control of a flexible array has been demonstrated by applying an external moment to the bus.<sup>37</sup> An earlier version<sup>38</sup> of this work introduced the use of Euler-Bernoulli beam theory for a physically consistent description of the array dynamics, and the nonlinear partial differential equation (PDE) model is implemented using Galerkin approximating functions.<sup>39–41</sup> In the model, piezoelectric actuation is represented by a distributed moment on the array. The model also accounts for the elastic and inertial properties of the actuators. In the spacecraft slewing and pointing maneuvers considered here, the array bending displacement is small. This enables reasonable accuracy when using a linearized bus-array model. Based on this linear model, we present parametric studies that 1) help determine performance limits, and 2) provide insight into the resulting array designs.

The use of open-loop controls and distributed optimization parameters, e.g., voltage and array thickness, allows for solutions that make limited assumptions on the control or physical architecture. This aids in the exploration of ultimate system performance limits.<sup>23</sup> Although there may be practical constraints for feedback control system implementation, the resulting co-design solutions can provide important insights into how to design the physical array structure such that it performs optimally as an actively controlled system, capitalizing on synergy between physical- and control-system design.<sup>42</sup>

## **I.A. Objectives and Contributions**

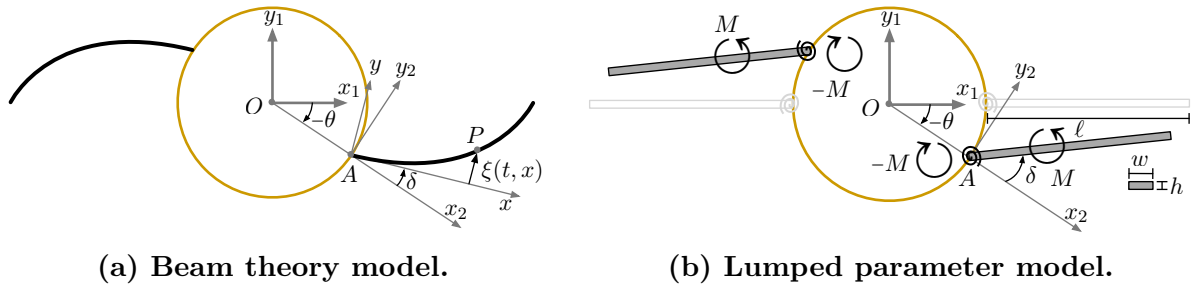
The primary objectives of this work are to demonstrate the feasibility of the SASA attitude control architecture on a representative spacecraft system, to determine the optimal designs



of the distributed array structure and controls, and to reveal qualitative design insights for intelligent structures with distributed geometric design. The contributions of this work are  
195 as follows:

1. We develop a coupled ODE-PDE model of the bus-array system based on extended generalization for hybrid coordinate systems. The elastic and inertial properties of the piezoelectric layer are included in the model.
2. We demonstrate bus attitude control using strain-actuated solar arrays with slewing  
200 maneuvers on the order of milli-radians or arc minutes for precision pointing and jitter reduction achieved in simulations.
3. We present a framework for the optimal integrated design of distributed structural geometry and distributed control systems.
4. We derive maximum bus slew limits achievable through SASA control using PRBDM  
205 analysis and co-design studies.
5. We present design guidelines, based on design optimization studies, for the distributed array structure and distributed control for the SASA system.

This paper is organized as follows. The models for the bus-array system, distributed composite array structure, distributed control, and PRBDM are presented in Sec. II. The  
210 formulation for the combined design of the distributed array structure and distributed control is presented in Sec. III. Analytical results based on PRBDM theory and numerical results of the co-design studies are discussed in Sec. IV. Results include the analysis of the optimal design tradeoff for the array structure, the optimal placement of segmented piezoelectric actuators, and parametric studies on passive damping and jitter disturbance. Finally, the  
215 conclusions are discussed in Sec. V.



**Figure 1: Illustration of the two modeling approaches used to gain design insights.**

## II. Modeling of the Strain-Actuated Solar Arrays and Rigid Spacecraft Bus

Our modeling approach is based on the recent work on aircraft dynamics with flexible, articulated wings<sup>43</sup> (see Ref.<sup>44</sup> for details). The spacecraft motion is modeled as an Ordinary Differential Equation (ODE) of a simple cylinder, and the solar array structure is modeled as a PDE of a composite beam with thickness that can vary along its length.

### II.A. Partial Differential Equation (PDE) Model

Here we assume that actuation is effected only through solar array strain actuators that produce strain at the solar array structure surface, resulting in array bending and a distributed moment due to strain actuator surface forces. The strain actuators do not interact with anything external to the spacecraft system, so the total system momentum must be conserved. Therefore, for a generally counter clockwise (CCW) movement of the solar array, the bus ( $\theta$ ) will rotate in the opposing CW direction allowing for attitude changes. This is evident in both the illustration of the beam theory coordinate system in Fig. 1a and its comparable PRBDM lumped parameter model in Fig. 1b.

#### II.A.1. Coupled ODE-PDE Dynamic Model

The coordinate systems used for the derivation of the Lagrangian of the system are shown in Fig. 1a. The model has two arrays with asymmetric actuation. Let the radius of the spacecraft body be  $r$ , and the spacecraft body rotation angle about origin  $O$  be  $\theta$ . In

235 deriving the equations of motion, it is assumed that the deflections,  $\xi(x, t)$  due to bending are small and the beam has no longitudinal velocity.

The mass moment of inertia of the spacecraft bus is  $J_\theta$ . The total length and width of the solar array are represented by  $\ell$  and  $w$ . The mass per unit length of the composite beam is denoted  $m_R(x)$  and the total rigidity is  $E(x)I(x)$ . The further details of the structural  
240 model are discussed in Sec. II.A.3.

The moment applied on the array is  $M(x, t)$  over the locations where a piezoelectric actuator is bonded; a small actuation gap (0.5 cm) was applied at the root and the tip to satisfy the boundary conditions. Using the explicit generalization for the hybrid coordinate systems approach,<sup>44</sup> the equations of motion were derived. The dynamics in matrix form are:

$$\int_0^\ell [\mathbf{M}_s] \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\xi} \end{bmatrix} dx + \int_0^\ell [\mathbf{C}_s] \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\xi} \end{bmatrix} dx + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \int_0^\ell (2EI\xi'' + 2\mu EI\dot{\xi}'')'' dx \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \int_0^\ell 2M'' dx \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where:

$$[\mathbf{M}_s] = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11}(\xi) & m_{12} \\ m_{12} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (J_\theta/\ell + 2(m_R((x+r)^2 + \xi^2) - p\xi'^2)) & 2m_R(x+r) \\ 2m_R(x+r) & 2m_R \end{bmatrix},$$

$$[\mathbf{C}_s] = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11}(\xi, \dot{\xi}) & c_{12}(\xi, \dot{\theta}) \\ -c_{12}(\xi, \dot{\theta}) & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2m_R\xi\dot{\xi} - 2p\xi'\dot{\xi}' & 2m_R\xi\dot{\theta} + 2(p\xi')'\dot{\theta} \\ -2m_R\xi\dot{\theta} - 2(p\xi')'\dot{\theta} & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

and where  $(\cdot)' = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\cdot)$ . The axial tension in the array due to rotation is:

$$A_x(\dot{\theta}, x) = \int_{r+x}^{r+\ell} [m_R\dot{\theta}^2 s] ds = p(x)\dot{\theta}^2; \text{ where } p(x) = \int_{r+x}^{r+\ell} m_R s ds \quad (2)$$

The term  $\mu$  is used to model the structural damping in the solar array. A disturbance  $d(t)$  acts on the bus as a torque input. The boundary conditions of the PDE in Eq. (1) are defined with respect to an axis fixed at the root of the solar array and radially outwards

from the center of the hub:

$$\xi(0, t) = \xi'(0, t) = 0, \quad EI \left( \xi'' + \mu \dot{\xi}'' \right) \Big|_{x=\ell} = 0, \quad \left( EI \left( \xi'' + \mu \dot{\xi}'' \right) \right)' \Big|_{x=\ell} = 0 \quad (3)$$

These boundary conditions specify zero deflection and slope of the deflected beam at the root, and no external force or moment at the free end.

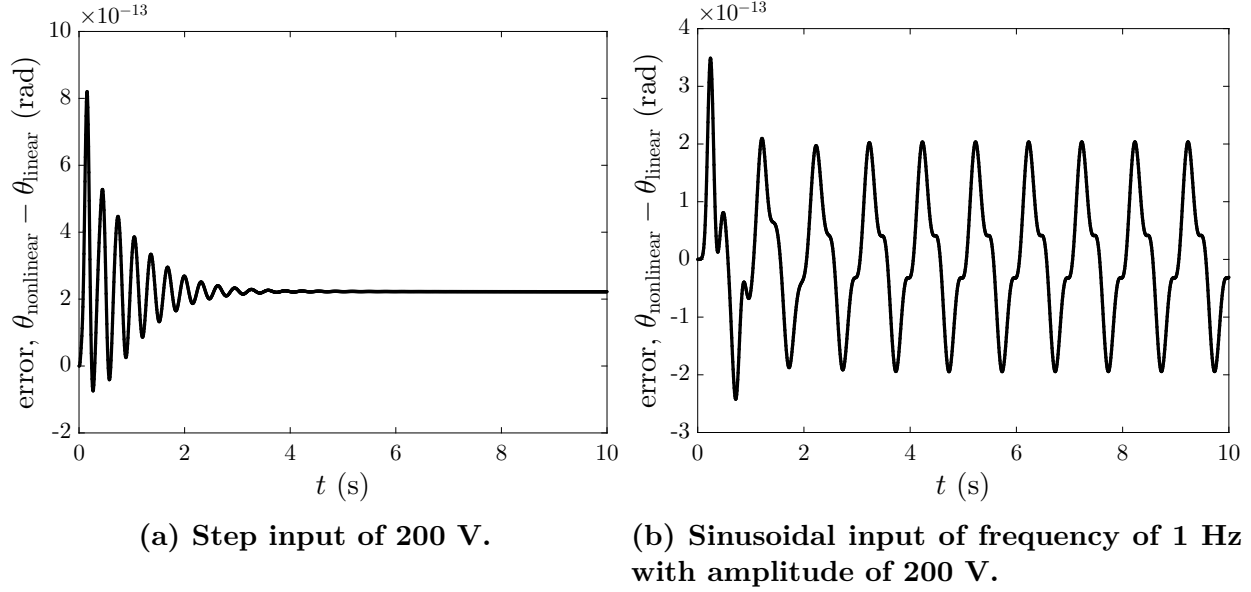
The proposed SASA architecture is envisioned for high-precision pointing control. To maintain the structural integrity of the arrays and to take into account actuator limitations, bounds are defined for the array strain and control magnitude, which in turn limit array displacements to small values. Therefore, a linearized bus-array system can still predict the dynamics with sufficient accuracy as shown in Fig. 2. While the linear model does not approximate large array displacements accurately, displacements in our tests are small, and linearization makes the integrated structural and control optimization problem more tractable. This allows to conduct various parametric studies, which support the focus of this work on design methods and design insight. The following linearized equations are obtained from Eq. (1), and the boundary conditions remain the same:

$$\int_0^\ell [\mathbf{M}_{sl}] \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\xi} \end{bmatrix} dx + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \int_0^\ell (2EI\xi'' + 2\mu EI\dot{\xi}'')'' dx \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \int_0^\ell 2M'' dx \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where:  $[\mathbf{M}_{sl}] = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11}(\xi) & m_{12} \\ m_{12} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (J_\theta/\ell + 2(m_R(x+r)^2)) & 2m_R(x+r) \\ 2m_R(x+r) & 2m_R \end{bmatrix}$

To demonstrate the validity of the linearization, open-loop simulations were performed for both the linear and nonlinear models. Two distinct tests were made for each model. On each test the system starts from rest. The first test then applies a step input of 200 V to the actuators. In the second test a sinusoidal input is used with a frequency of 1 Hz and an amplitude of 200 V. The system parameters for these tests are given in Tables 1 and 2. The resulting steady state amplitudes of the bus angle for the nonlinear model are  $4.6 \times 10^{-5}$

rad and  $5.1 \times 10^{-5}$  rad for the step and sinusoidal inputs, respectively. The difference in bus  
250 angular rotation,  $(\theta_{\text{nonlinear}} - \theta_{\text{linear}})$ , for these two tests is shown in Fig. 2 where  $\theta_{\text{nonlinear}}$   
and  $\theta_{\text{linear}}$  are the open-loop bus angles obtained from nonlinear model and linear models,  
respectively. The error is extremely small, so the linear PDE model is used for the studies  
presented here.

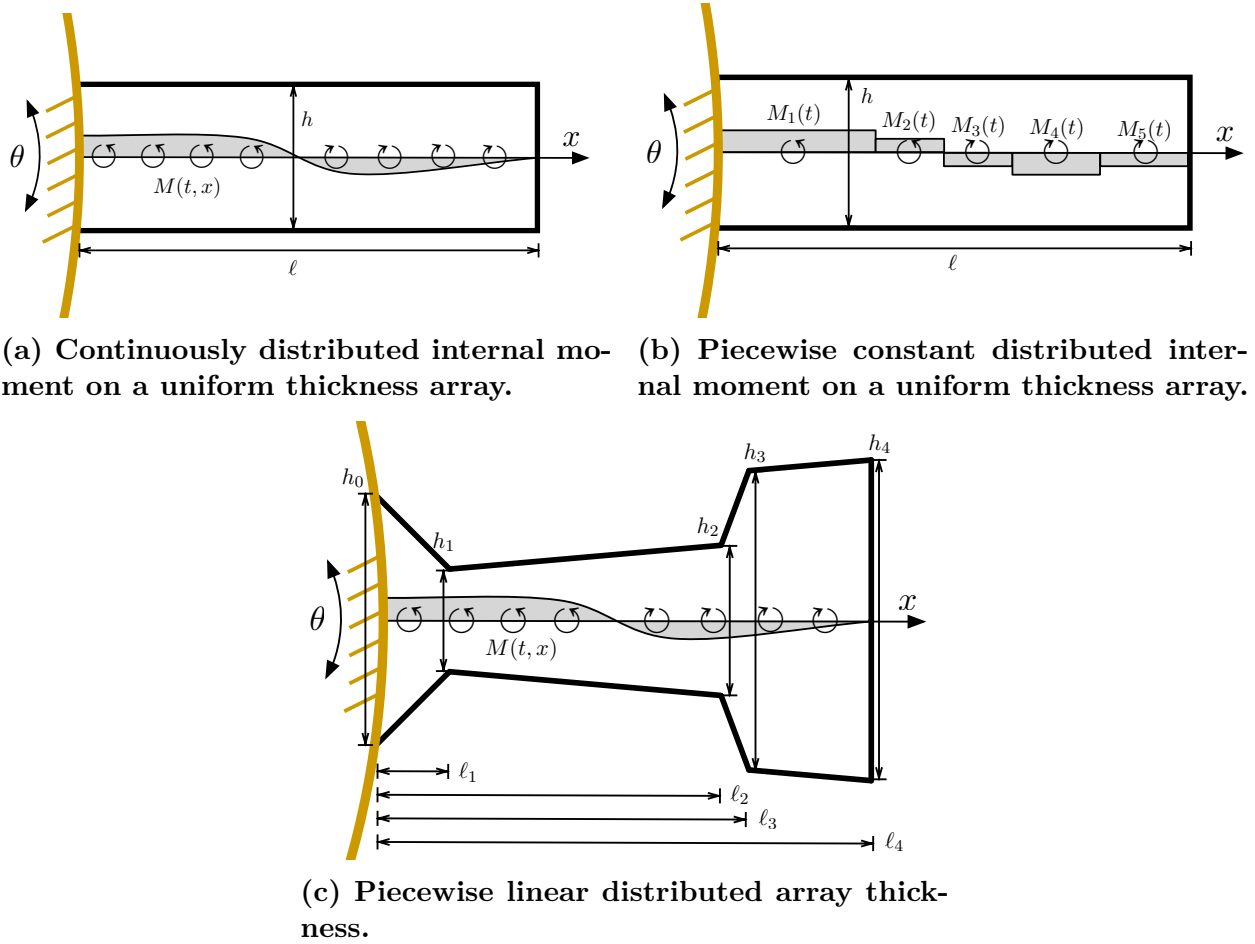


**Figure 2: Difference in bus angle trajectories between the linear and nonlinear models based on open-loop simulations with two different inputs.**

### II.A.2. Galerkin Formulation

To approximate numerically the PDE in Eqs. (1) and (3), we use a Galerkin formulation.<sup>40,41,43</sup> A linear combination of approximating functions is used to represent the array dynamic state<sup>40</sup> and distributed moment. These functions are chosen such that they satisfy the boundary conditions of the array, i.e., the fixed-free condition. The  $j$ th approximating functions used for spatially distributed deflection and moment representations, respectively, are defined as:<sup>40</sup>

$$\phi_j(x) = 1 - \cos\left(\frac{j\pi x}{\ell}\right) + \frac{1}{2}(-1)^{j+1}\left(\frac{j\pi x}{\ell}\right)^2, \quad \gamma_j(x) = \phi_j(x) + x^j + 1 \quad (5)$$



**Figure 3: Illustrations of various design representations for internally actuated array design problems for pointing.**

The array deflection and distributed moment are then approximated as:

$$\xi(x, t) = \phi(x)^T \boldsymbol{\eta}(t), \quad M(x, t) = \gamma(x)^T \mathbf{q}(t) \quad (6)$$

For the co-design studies here, four approximating functions are used. This approximation parameterizes the control as a spatially-varying distributed moment, but the actual control input on a piezoelectric segment is normally a uniform voltage.<sup>45</sup> Comparing both of these representations in Figs. 3a and 3b, we may think of the spatially-varying distributed moment as the limiting case of the piecewise uniform moment (segment length approaching zero).

The applicability of this approximation to a real implementable physical system will be discussed in Sec. IV.D.

A system of ODEs that approximate the PDE given above is derived<sup>44</sup> by minimizing weighted residual of the  $\xi$  dynamics. Using the above formulation and defining additional matrices we obtain:

$$[\mathbf{M}_g] \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\eta} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2[\mathbf{e}](\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mu\dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d \\ \int_0^\ell 2\phi M'' dx \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

where:

$$[\mathbf{M}_g] = \begin{bmatrix} J_\theta + 2 \int_0^\ell m_R (x+r)^2 dx & 2[\mathbf{B}] \\ 2[\mathbf{B}]^T & 2[\mathbf{A}] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\mathbf{A}] = \int_0^\ell m_R \phi \phi^T dx, \quad [\mathbf{B}] = \int_0^\ell m_R (x+r) \phi^T dx, \quad [\mathbf{e}] = \int_0^\ell \phi (EI \phi''^T)'' dx$$

The boundary conditions with the approximating functions are then:

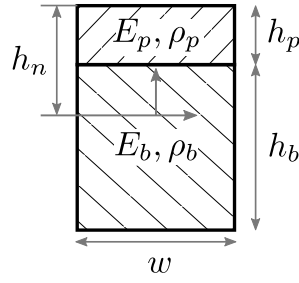
$$\phi(0)^T = \phi'(0)^T = 0, \quad EI \phi''(\ell)^T (\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mu\dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) = 0, \quad (EI \phi''^T)'(\ell) (\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mu\dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) = 0 \quad (8)$$

### II.A.3. Structural Model of Composite Array

The structural geometry of the array is also designed with the distributed moment. In this work, the length of the array and the distributed thickness are optimized. The spatially varying array thickness design is represented using piecewise linear segments. The length of the array is divided into multiple segments as shown in Fig. 3c. Segment lengths and slopes can be changed. The distributed array thickness design is parameterized using the absolute locations of the segment boundaries (quantified by the vector  $\boldsymbol{\ell}$ ), and the thickness at the segment boundaries (quantified by the vector  $\mathbf{h}$ ). On the segment  $j$ , the thickness varies linearly with respect to  $x$  as follows:

$$h_j(x) = (h_{j+1} - h_j) \frac{x - \ell_j}{\ell_{j+1} - \ell_j} + h_j, \quad x \in [\ell_j, \ell_{j+1}] \quad (9)$$

The array is laminated with a layer of piezoelectric material on the top surface which acts as an actuator and has the same width as the beam. It is also assumed that the entire



**Figure 4: Cross section of the actuated array, modeled as a composite beam.**

top surface of the array is covered with a piezoelectric layer of constant thickness  $h_p$ . The neutral axis of the composite beam is not at the center due to the inhomogeneous structural properties. Consider the cross section of the composite beam shown in Fig. 4. The distance from the neutral axis and the top surface of the array with piezoelectric material is  $h_n$ . The thickness of the base array and the piezoelectric layer are  $h_b(x)$  and  $h_p$ , respectively. Note that  $h_b(x)$  can vary spatially. The neutral axis location  $h_n$ , for each position  $0 \leq x \leq \ell$ , can be obtained by balancing the forces across the cross section and solving for  $h_n$ :

$$h_n = \frac{0.5E_p h_p^2 + E_b h_b (0.5h_b + h_p)}{E_p h_p + E_b h_b} \quad (10)$$

The area moments of inertia of the array,  $I_b$ , and the piezoelectric layer,  $I_p$ , about the neutral axis are:

$$I_b = \frac{wh_b^3}{12} + wh_b (h_p + 0.5h_b - h_n)^2, \quad I_p = \frac{wh_p^3}{12} + wh_p (h_n - 0.5h_p)^2 \quad (11)$$

The total array rigidity is given by:

$$EI = E_b I_b + E_p I_p \quad (12)$$

The mass per unit length of the composite array is  $m_R(x) = m_{Rb}(x) + m_{Rp}(x)$ , where  $m_{Rb}(x)$  and  $m_{Rp}(x)$  are the mass per unit length of the base array and the piezoelectric material, respectively. The application of a voltage  $V$  across the piezoelectric layer induces a moment  $M$ . This moment, due to only internal actuation, can be calculated by applying force balance



across the cross section of the composite array:<sup>44</sup>

$$M(x, t) = c(x)V(x, t), \quad (13)$$

$$\text{where: } c(x) = \frac{d_{31}E_b^2wh_b^3E_ph_b(h_b + h_p)}{2(E_b^2h_b^4 + 4E_bE_ph_b^3h_p + 6E_bE_ph_b^2h_p^2 + 4E_bE_ph_bh_p^3 + E_p^2h_p^4)},$$

and  $d_{31}$  is the ratio of the strain and the electric field applied across the piezoelectric layer when all the external forces are held constant.<sup>45</sup> Observe that the moment is proportional

to the applied voltage.

## II.B. Pseudo-Rigid Body Dynamic Model

A PRBDM was developed for the spacecraft system for the purpose of performing additional numerical studies that complement those based on the PDE model, including studies that yield qualitative insights that are difficult to obtain via the more sophisticated PDE model.

The flexible solar arrays were modeled both with single and multi-link approximations. The single link model is presented here, where each array is modeled as a single rigid link connected to the spacecraft body via a revolute joint and a torsional spring (see Fig. 1b). This is a lumped compliance approximation of the distributed compliance of the actual solar array. However, these models only describe the behavior at a component level rather than the specific point-to-point variations, while Euler-Bernoulli beam in Sec. II.A does capture these variations.

Applying the Euler-Lagrange equation to the system in Fig. 1b we arrive at the following

equations of motion:

$$\mathcal{M} \begin{bmatrix} \ddot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\delta} \end{bmatrix} + \mathcal{B} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\delta} \end{bmatrix} + \mathcal{K} \begin{bmatrix} \theta \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{\tau} \quad (14)$$

$$\text{where: } \mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} J_\theta + 2J_\delta + 2mr^2 + \frac{1}{2}m\ell^2 + 2\ell mr \cos(\delta) & 2J_\delta + mr\ell \cos(\delta) + \frac{1}{2}m\ell^2 \\ 2J_\delta + mr\ell \cos(\delta) + \frac{1}{2}m\ell^2 & 2J_\delta + \frac{1}{2}m\ell^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{B} = \begin{bmatrix} -2\ell mr \dot{\delta} \sin(\delta) & -\ell mr \dot{\delta} \sin(\delta) \\ \ell mr \dot{\theta} \sin(\delta) & 2b \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{K} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2k \end{bmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\tau} = \begin{bmatrix} q \\ 2M \end{bmatrix}$$

$$m = \rho \ell w h, \quad J_\delta = \frac{1}{12} m (\ell^2 + h^2),$$

and where  $k$  is the torsional spring stiffness and  $b$  is the damping constant at the revolute joints. Solving the eigenvalue problem ( $\mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathcal{K} = \boldsymbol{\omega}^2$ ) gives the natural frequencies of the system:

$$\omega_1^2 = 0 \quad (15a)$$

$$\omega_2^2 = k \frac{2m\ell^2 + 8m\ell r \cos(\delta) + 8mr^2 + 4J_\theta + 8J_\delta}{-2\ell^2 m^2 r^2 \cos^2(\delta) + 2\ell^2 m^2 r^2 + J_\theta \ell^2 m + 8J_\delta m r^2 + 4J_\theta J_\delta} = \frac{k}{J_{\text{eff}}(\delta, \ell, h, w)} \quad (15b)$$

One of the eigenfrequencies is zero since the system permits a rigid body mode. The two mode shapes are:

$$\boldsymbol{\Psi} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\psi}_1 & \boldsymbol{\psi}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{m\ell^2 + 2mr\ell \cos(\delta) + 4J_\delta}{m\ell^2 + 4mr\ell \cos(\delta) + 4mr^2 + 2J_\theta + 4J_\delta} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

We note that the nonrigid mode eigenfrequency ( $\omega_2$ ) and eigenvector ( $\boldsymbol{\psi}_2$ ) are not constant but depend on the path of the array. The total angular momentum of the system is:

$$\chi = \left( \frac{1}{2} \ell^2 m + 2\ell mr \cos(\delta) + 2mr^2 + J_\theta + 2J_\delta \right) \dot{\theta} + \left( \frac{1}{2} \ell^2 m + \ell mr \cos(\delta) + 2J_\delta \right) \dot{\delta} \quad (17)$$

Since internal moments cannot change the total angular momentum of the system, the only

mode that is present in the absence of external moments is the momentum conserving mode  $\psi_2$ .

### III. Co-Design Problem Formulation

The objective of the co-design study is to provide insights into how the actively-controlled solar array should be designed to optimize the performance in terms of attitude slewing and jitter reduction. A balanced co-design approach is utilized where physical-system (geometric specification of the solar array) and control-system (open-loop voltage trajectories) design are considered in an equally comprehensive manner.<sup>23</sup> A general simultaneous co-design formulation (with a fixed time horizon) is:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p} \quad J(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) \quad (18a)$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad \dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(t) - \mathbf{f}(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) = \mathbf{0} \quad (18b)$$

$$\mathbf{c}(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) \leq \mathbf{0} \quad (18c)$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{\text{eq}}(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) = \mathbf{0} \quad (18d)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_c$  are the control design variables,  $\mathbf{x}_p$  are the physical system design variables, and  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$  are the states in Eq. (7), Eq. (18a) is a general performance objective, Eq. (18b) enforces the feasible dynamics of a set of first-order ordinary differential equations (ODE), Eq. (18c) are general inequality constraints, and Eq. (18d) are general equality constraints. Here the  
 285 physical system design is parameterized by  $\mathbf{h}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\ell}$  with eight distinct linear segments. The control system design variable is defined here as  $\mathbf{x}_c := \mathbf{q}(t)$ ; these control trajectories are used to compute  $M(x, t)$  and  $V(x, t)$ .

The spacecraft control task is divided into two consecutive phases;  $\bar{t}$  is the time duration of the first phase. The first phase (slewing) concentrates on rotating the bus from an initial angular displacement  $\theta(t_0)$  back to  $\theta = 0$  at time  $\bar{t}$ . In the second phase (pointing) the bus is held inertially fixed for precision pointing. Any vibrations generated during slewing must be

**Table 1: Bus parameters.**

$J_\theta$	372.49 kg m <sup>2</sup>
$r$	1.02 m

**Table 2: Array and piezoelectric material parameters.**

$\ell_{\text{nominal}}$	1.575 m	$E_b$	1.57 GPa	$E_p$	62 GPa
$h_{\text{nominal}}$	0.018 m	$\rho_b$	332.03 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	$\rho_p$	7800 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$w_{\text{nominal}}$	1.862 m	$\mu$	10 <sup>-4</sup> s	$h_p$	2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> m

damped out during the pointing phase. The objective function is to maximize the slewing angle, demonstrating the maximum capability of the SASA attitude control system:

$$J = -\theta(t_0) \quad (19a)$$

where  $t \in [t_0, t_f] = [0 \text{ sec}, \bar{t} + 1 \text{ sec}]$  and  $\bar{t}$  is solved at various values between 0.12 s and 4 s. This parametric sweep on  $\bar{t}$  helps quantify the tradeoff between the competing objectives of slew angle maximization and slew time minimization. The dynamic constraint uses the linear ODE defined in Eq. (7) with 4 approximating functions. The physical parameters for the bus, array, and piezoelectric layer are shown in Tables 1 and 2. A disturbance moment  $d(t)$  on the bus is present during the slewing and pointing phases. It consists of a jitter component  $j(t)$  (e.g., vibrations similar to those that arise from moving parts such as pumps) and a bias component  $b$  (e.g., due to solar radiation pressure, atmospheric drag):

$$d(t) = b + j(t) = 10^{-4} \text{ Nm} + 2 \times 10^{-3} \sin(50t) \text{ Nm} \quad (19b)$$

The initial configuration is stationary with an initial bus orientation  $\theta_0 = \theta(t_0) \neq 0$ . The initial states are:

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_{t=t_0}^\top = \begin{bmatrix} \theta & \dot{\theta} & \boldsymbol{\eta}^\top & \dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^\top \end{bmatrix}_{t=t_0}^\top = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 & 0 & \mathbf{0}^\top & \mathbf{0}^\top \end{bmatrix}^\top \quad (19c)$$

The bus angle and angular rate are constrained to 0 during the pointing phase. This simultaneously meets the pointing task and eliminates jitter if a feasible solution is found:

$$|\theta(t)| = 0, \quad t \in [\bar{t}, t_f] \quad (19d)$$

$$|\dot{\theta}(t)| = 0, \quad t \in [\bar{t}, t_f] \quad (19e)$$

Numerical experiments indicate these constraints can be satisfied in all but very unusual cases. PEMA actuation magnitude is constrained to satisfy maximum voltage restrictions:

$$|V(x, t)| = \left| \frac{M(x, t)}{c(x)} \right| \leq 300 \text{ V} \quad (19f)$$

The array surface strain is constrained to be less than 0.1% to maintain structural integrity:

$$|\epsilon(x, t)| = |(h_b(x) + h_p - h_n(x)) \xi''(t)| \leq 10^{-3} \quad (19g)$$

Traditional silicon-based solar cells can withstand strain levels on the order of 0.1%.<sup>46</sup> However, recent advances allow the manufacturing of flexible solar cells that can achieve strain levels on the order of 10%,<sup>47</sup> as well as fiber-shaped solar cells that can be woven into textiles.<sup>48</sup>

The total array length  $\ell_n \equiv \ell$ , linear array segment lengths, and array thickness values have manufacturing and operational constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} 0.5 \text{ m} &\leq \ell_n \leq 2.5 \text{ m} \\ 0.05 \text{ m} &\leq \ell_{i+1} - \ell_i \leq 1 \text{ m} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n \\ 0.009 \text{ m} &\leq h_i \leq 0.055 \text{ m} \end{aligned} \quad (19h)$$

The array volume is constrained to be less than the nominal value in order to avoid increasing the payload mass and delivery costs. This is proportional to the array structure cross-

sectional area:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{w}{2} (h_{i-1} + h_i) (\ell_i - \ell_{i-1}) \leq 0.054 \text{ m}^3 \quad (19i)$$

Array planform area is constrained to the nominal value to maintain the same level of power generation:

$$\ell_n w = 2.932 \text{ m}^2 \quad (19j)$$

Direct orientation of the solar arrays towards the sun requires the attitude rotation axis to be normal to the sun-spacecraft vector. Solar power generation is a function of array area and orientation (and other factors). The planform area constraint is intended to be  
 295 large enough to ensure adequate overall power generation even when arrays are not oriented directly toward the sun. A more sophisticated and accurate approach would model power generation directly across a range of maneuvers and insolation conditions. An investigation of the tradeoff between power generation and attitude control is a topic for future work.

This completes the exposition of the co-design problem formulation; objective and con-  
 300 straint functions are summarized in Table 3. Note that some optimization variables (states and controls) are linear while other variables (plant parameters) are nonlinear in the co-design formulation. A traditional approach to solve this type of problems is to use nested co-design.<sup>23, 29, 49</sup> This approach consists of an outer-loop that finds the optimal plant parameters, while the inner-loop finds the optimal states and controls histories for each point  
 305 in the plant parameter space sampled by the outer-loop. In this way, the inner-loop can return the cost of a particular plant design to the outer-loop. Since the the optimal control problem in the inner-loop is linear, it can be formulated and solved as a linear program (LP) using a direct transcription method.<sup>29, 50–52</sup> Direct transcription has been used traditionally in trajectory optimization.<sup>51, 53, 54</sup> A custom transcription code was used to transform the  
 310 infinite dimensional optimal control problem into a finite dimensional optimization problem.

A feasible solution for the inner-loop problem is globally optimal because it is formulated

as an LP program. However, the nonlinear dependencies on the plant parameters in the outer-loop require special attention to ensure that the global optimum is found. The outer loop is implemented using `MATLAB patternsearch`, while the inner-loop is implemented using `MATLAB quadprog`. `MATLAB patternsearch` was configured to use complete search (Latin hypercube sampling) and polling options to help find the global solution.

The results for a number of minor variations of this formulation will be discussed next after a short study on the fundamental limits of a slewing maneuver with SASA utilizing a reduced form of this co-design formulation and the PRBDM model.

**Table 3: Summary of co-design problem formulation.**

Name	Eq. #	Type	Linear w.r.t.			Level
			$\xi$	$x_c$	$x_p$	
Max. Slew Amount	Eq. (19a)	Eq. (18a)	Yes			Both
Dynamics	Eq. (7) & Eq. (19b)	Eq. (18b)	Yes	Yes	No	Inner
Initial Conditions	Eq. (19c)	Eq. (18d)	Yes			Inner
Pointing	Eq. (19d) & Eq. (19e)	Eq. (18d)	Yes			Inner
Voltage Limits	Eq. (19f)	Eq. (18c)		Yes	No	Inner
Strain Limits	Eq. (19g)	Eq. (18c)	Yes		No	Inner
Geometry Bounds	Eq. (19h)	Eq. (18c)			Yes	Outer
Array Volume	Eq. (19i)	Eq. (18c)			No	Outer
Planform Area	Eq. (19j)	Eq. (18d)			No	Outer

## IV. Analytical and Numerical Results for SASA System

### IV.A. Maximum Slewing Bounds using the PRBDM

The momentum of the PRBDM system is given in Eq. (17), and it must be conserved if no external disturbance acts on the spacecraft ( $d \equiv 0$ ). Assuming zero initial momentum, we

can integrate the momentum equation to determine the relationship between  $\theta$  and  $\delta$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \left( \frac{1}{2} \ell^2 m + 2 \ell m r \cos(\delta) + 2 m r^2 + I_\theta + 2 I_\delta \right) \dot{\theta} + \left( \frac{1}{2} \ell^2 m + \ell m r \cos(\delta) + 2 I_\delta \right) \dot{\delta} \\
&:= I_1(\ell, h, w, \delta) \dot{\theta} + I_2(\ell, h, w, \delta) \dot{\delta} \\
\dot{\theta} &= - \frac{I_2(\delta, \cdot)}{I_1(\delta, \cdot)} \dot{\delta} \\
\theta(t_f) - \theta(t_0) &= - \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \frac{I_2(\delta, \cdot)}{I_1(\delta, \cdot)} \dot{\delta} dt
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

The question we are trying to answer requires an upper bound on  $|\theta(t_f) - \theta(t_0)|$ . We can find a reasonable upper bound by determining the maximum value of the integrals. Recall that  $m$  and  $I_\delta$  are dependent on the geometric physical design variables. Since the geometric variables are positive and it is reasonable to assume  $\cos(\delta) > 0$  (panel angle must be smaller than  $|\delta| < \pi/2$ ), then we see that the following difference is strictly positive:  $I_1 - I_2 = \ell m r \cos(\delta) + 2 m r^2 + I_\theta > 0$ . Therefore, the effective inertia ratio,  $R_{\text{eff}} := I_2/I_1$ , must be between 0 and 1.

If  $|\delta(t)| \leq \delta_{\text{max}}$  is small, then  $R_{\text{eff}}$  is nearly time-independent. Observe also that the effective inertia ratio is maximized when  $\delta = 0$ . Therefore, we will use this maximal value, denoted  $R_{\text{eff,max}}$ , as a time-independent value to arrive at the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}
|\theta(t_f) - \theta(t_0)| &\leq R_{\text{eff,max}} \left| - \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \dot{\delta} dt \right| \\
&\leq R_{\text{eff,max}} |\delta(t_0) - \delta(t_f)|
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

Assuming  $\delta(t_0) = 0$ ,  $\theta(t_f) = 0$ , and that the prescribed bound on  $\delta$  is hit at  $t_f$ , then we have:

$$|\theta_0| \leq R_{\text{eff,max}} \delta_{\text{max}} \leq \delta_{\text{max}} \tag{22}$$

Therefore we expect the maximum change for the bus angle to be bounded above by the allowable change in panel angle using only internal actuation of the solar array. This implies that if only milli-radian deflections of the array are feasible, we can only achieve, at most,



milli-radian changes in bus orientation. Additional novel solutions for SASA such as revolute joints that allow for large changes in the effective inertia ratio without violating conservation of momentum may extend this limit.

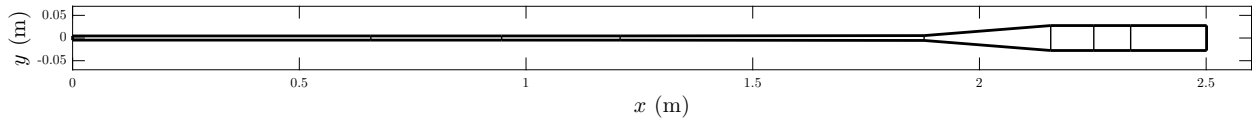
A comparable  $\delta_{\max}$  condition for a continuous array is a strain bound. If we want the largest value for  $\delta$ , analogously the strain will be at its maximum possible value at each point on the arrays. Using the constant thickness solar array in Fig. 1b, we can calculate this bound as  $\delta_{\max} = (\ell/h)\epsilon_{\max}$ . With this relationship, we can calculate the predicted maximum slewing bound. Two cases are shown in Table 4: nominal geometry and maximum allowable value for  $\ell$ . The latter case achieves the maximum value of the slew bound since both  $R_{\text{eff},\max}$  and  $\delta_{\max}$  are maximized. We can also determine the actual maximum slew bound using the optimal control problem in Sec. III (i.e., fixed geometry) without the voltage constraint. This result is also shown in Table 4 and indeed the bound is verified. The bound is not tight because the optimal voltage trajectories did not strain all of the array to the prescribed bound but only most of the array; thus, this assumption was only partially valid. In the next section, the study will consider the other design constraints and allow piecewise-linear array thickness changes. The bounds in this section do not consider all the design constraints and therefore are only approximate indications of the maximum possible slewing performance.

**Table 4: Summary of results for maximum slewing bounds using the PRBDM.**

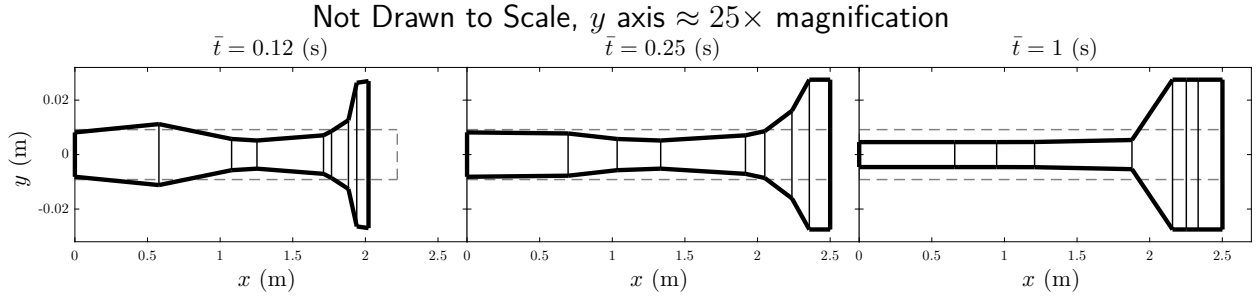
Study	$R_{\text{eff},\max}$	$R_{\text{eff},\max}\delta_{\max}$	Actual
Nominal Geometry	0.12	0.0108 rad (0.62°)	> 0.0063 rad (0.36°)
Maximal $\ell$	0.22	0.0301 rad (1.73°)	> 0.0176 rad (1.01°)

#### IV.B. Maximum Slewing Bounds using the Co-design Problem Formulation

In this section we study three variations of geometric design representation in the co-design problem introduced in Sec. III. These are denoted nominal geometry (NG), variable length (VL), and piecewise linear segments (PLS). The geometric constraints for each case are summarized in Table 5. The NG case does not involve physical-system design since it is fixed and is only included in this study as a performance baseline. For the VL case,  $\ell$  is the



(a) Array design with maximal array inertia (drawn to scale).



(b) Array designs for both Variable Length (dashed) and Piecewise Linear Segments (solid) studies.

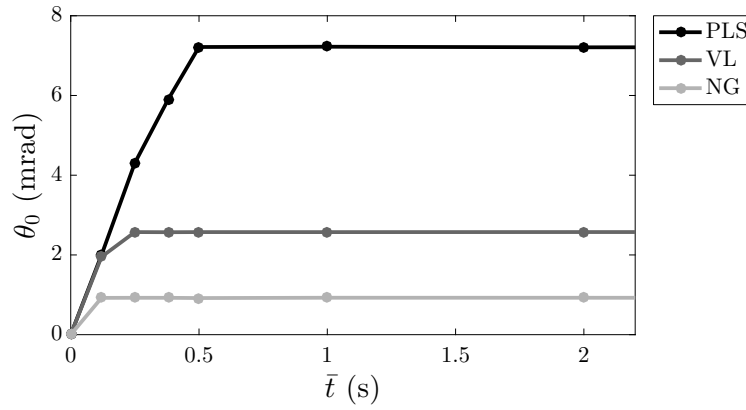
**Figure 5: Optimal array designs.**

sole physical-system design variable (see Fig. 3a). Finally, the PLS case varies total array length, segment lengths, and spatially-varying thickness to modify distributed geometric design of the array structure (see Fig. 3c). The array volume (or mass) in the PLS case can be smaller than the nominal, whereas in the VL case, the volume is fixed to the nominal value of the NG case. Since the array planform area is constrained to a nominal value in each case, the array width is determined by the array length. Several values of the slewing time,  $\bar{t}$ , between 0.12 s and 4 s were studied to investigate the relationship between slew time, the maximum slew angle, and corresponding optimal array designs. The final time of the simulation is given by  $t_f = \bar{t} + 1$ .

**Table 5: Geometric constraints for the co-design problem variations.**

Variation	Array Property		
	Length (m)	Thickness (m)	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
NG	1.575	0.018	0.054
VL	$0.5 \leq \ell \leq 2.5$	0.018	0.054
PLS	$0.5 \leq \ell \leq 2.5$	$0.009 \leq h(x) \leq 0.055$	$\leq 0.054$

The maximum slewing results for each of the three variations are summarized in Fig. 6. As expected, the NG case achieved the smallest maximum slewing angle (0.9 mrad) for all the tested slewing times. This result indicates that the performance level desired may not be

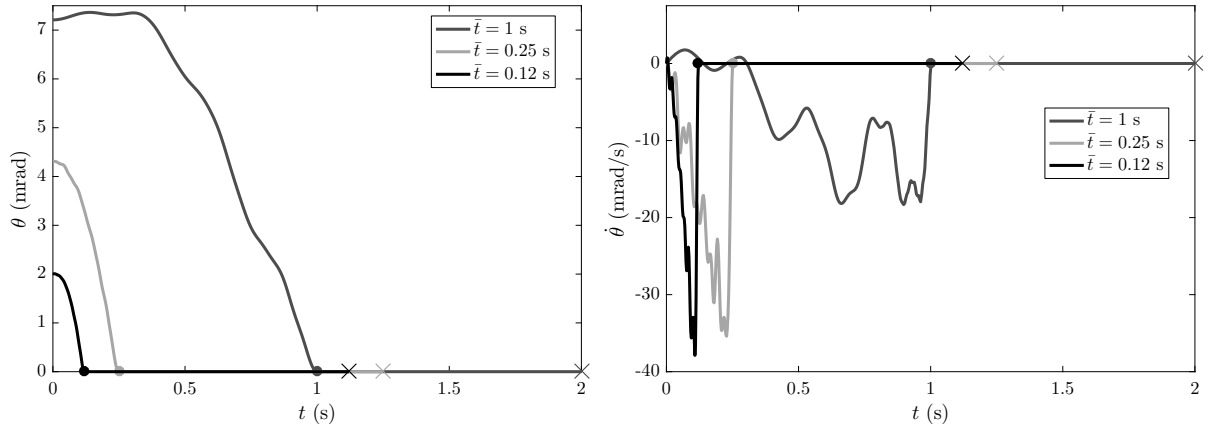


**Figure 6: Parametric study of maximum slewing angle with respect to slewing time.**

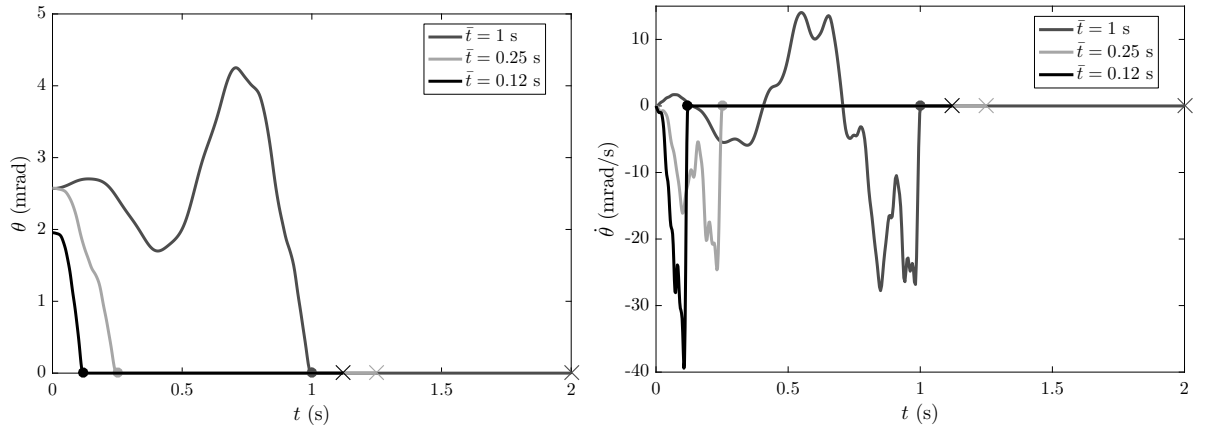
achievable through control design alone. Furthermore, the peak maximum achievable slewing angles for the VL and PLS cases (2.6 mrad and 7.2 mrad, respectively) are consistent with the results of Sec. IV.A. The optimal array designs are shown in Fig. 5b. We observed that the optimal PLS geometries for slewing times  $\geq 0.5$  s were similar. In addition, optimal VL designs for slewing times  $\geq 0.25$  s are equal. The optimal trajectories for the bus angle and angular rate for the PLS and VL cases are shown in Fig. 7. These figures show that, through only internal actuation of the solar arrays, the slew maneuvers were performed and then the bus was held fixed (i.e.,  $\theta \equiv 0$  and  $\dot{\theta} = 0$ ) for 1.0 sec all while managing jitter.

Note that for the VL case with slewing times of 0.25 sec and 1.0 sec, the bus angle trajectories are different, but the same slewing angle is achieved. Additional control-design-only problem formulations were conducted with  $\bar{t}$  up to 30 s and with the array design fixed as the optimal design from the 4 s slew time PLS solution. It was found that the maximum slewing angle remained equal to 7.2 mrad, indicating that a fundamental limit was reached. The limiting factor preventing larger slew angles here is the actuator voltage limit, as opposed to momentum limitations as detailed in Sec. IV.A. Figure 8 illustrates that the actuator voltage is saturated during the pointing phase.

The array displacements for the PLS and VL cases are shown in Fig. 9. Results from slewing and pointing phases are shown separately. Conservation of angular momentum with negligible material damping in the bus-array system provides a natural explanation of these numerical results. For example, rotating the bus in the clockwise direction requires the array

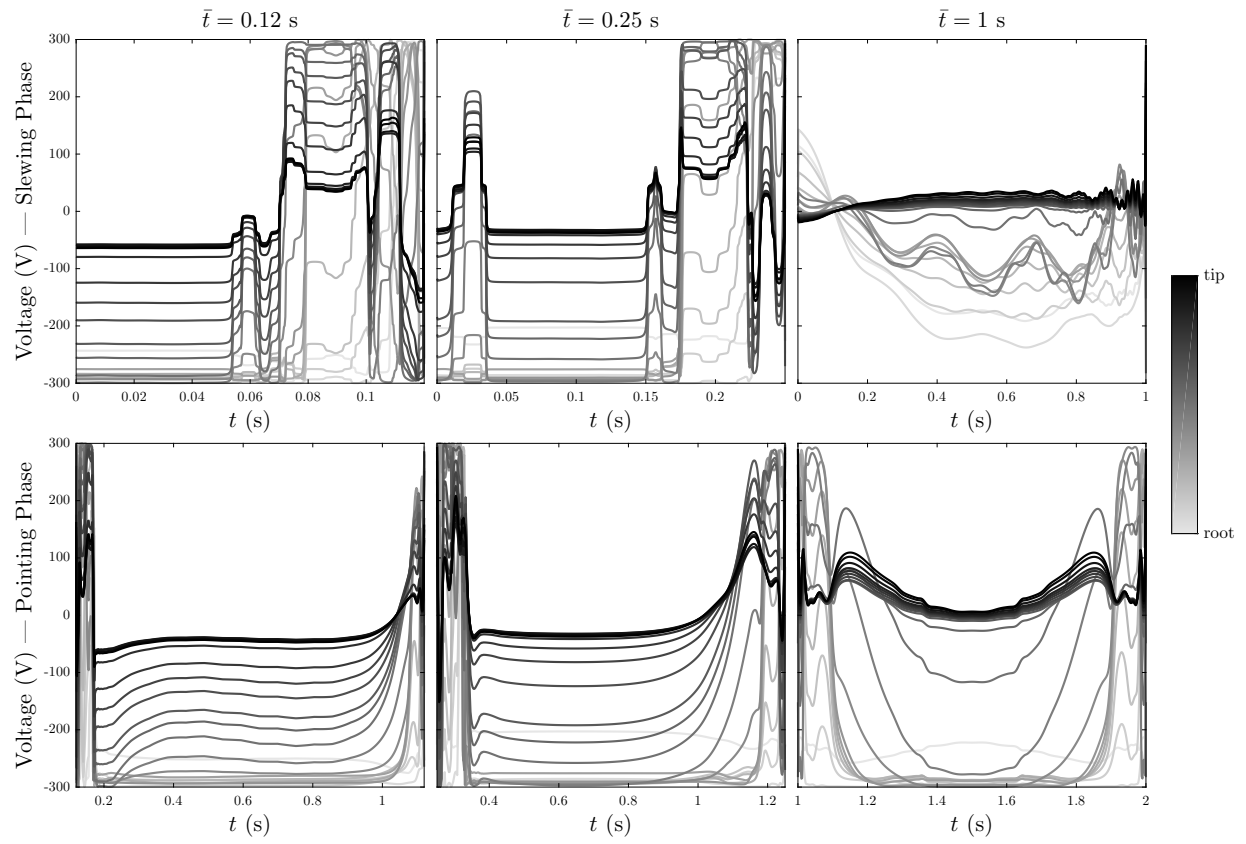


(a) Piecewise Linear Segments (PLS).

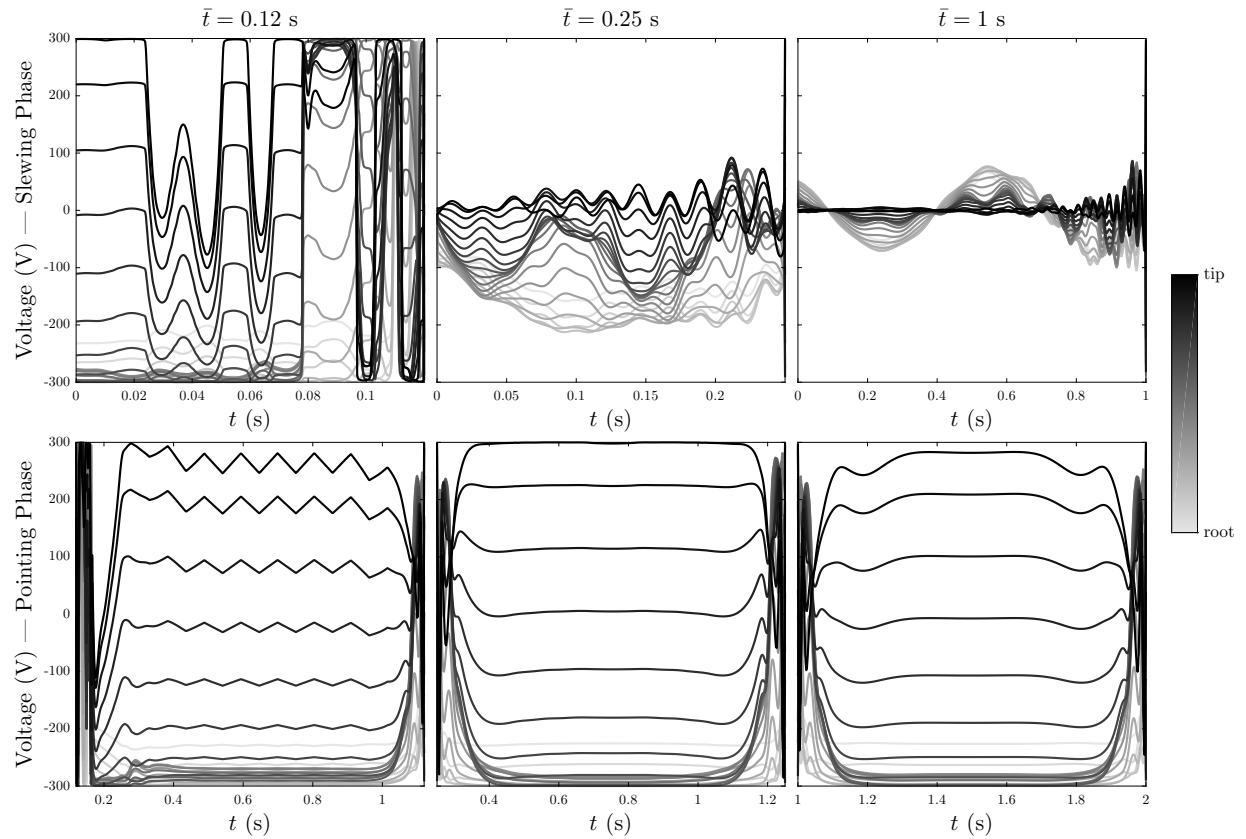


(b) Variable Length (VL).

Figure 7: Bus angle and angular rate trajectories for select values of  $\bar{t}$ .



(a) Piecewise Linear Segments (PLS).



(b) Variable Length (VL).

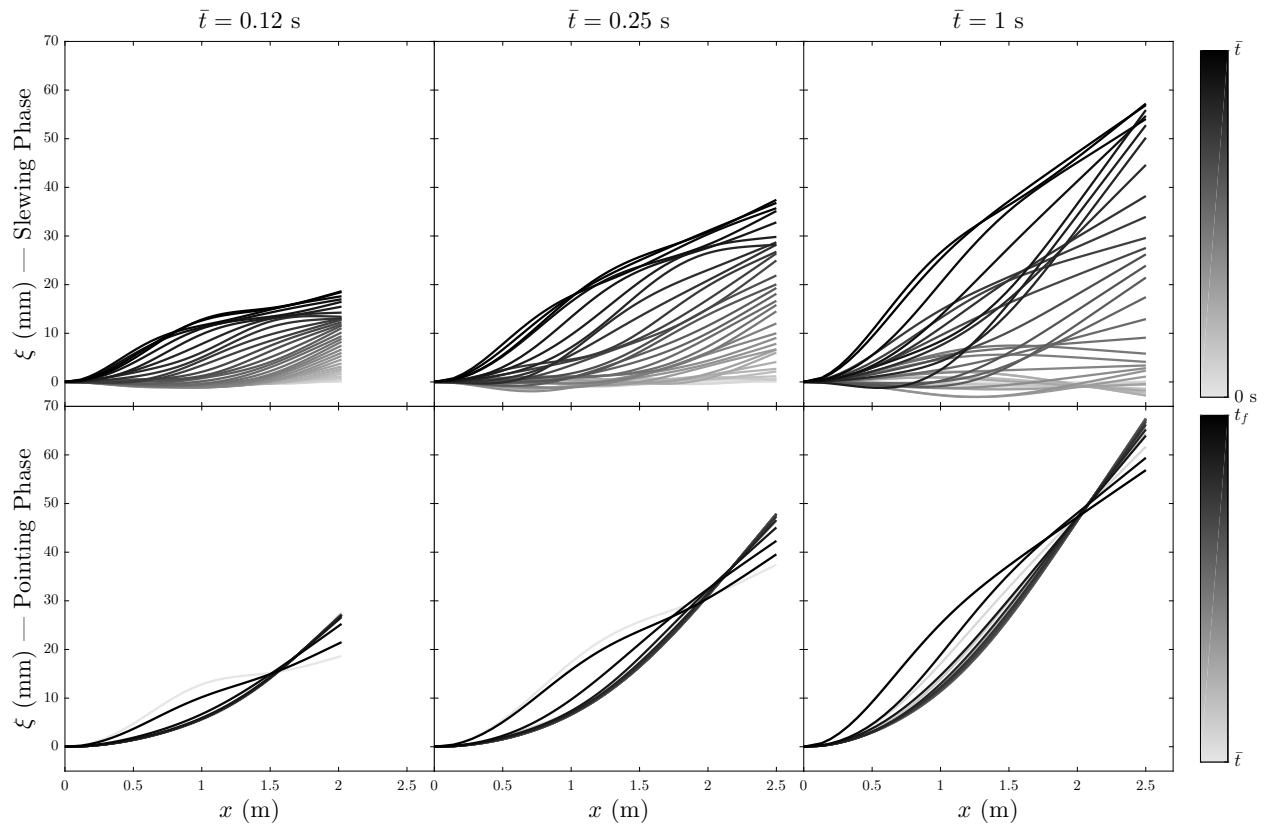
Figure 8: Voltage history along the array for select values of  $\bar{t}$ .  
29 of 43

to displace in the opposite direction (counter-clockwise) (see Fig. 1a). This is particularly evident in the VL case with slewing time of 1.0 sec, which shows the effect of CW and CCW array displacements on the bus angle trajectory in Figs. 9b and 7b.

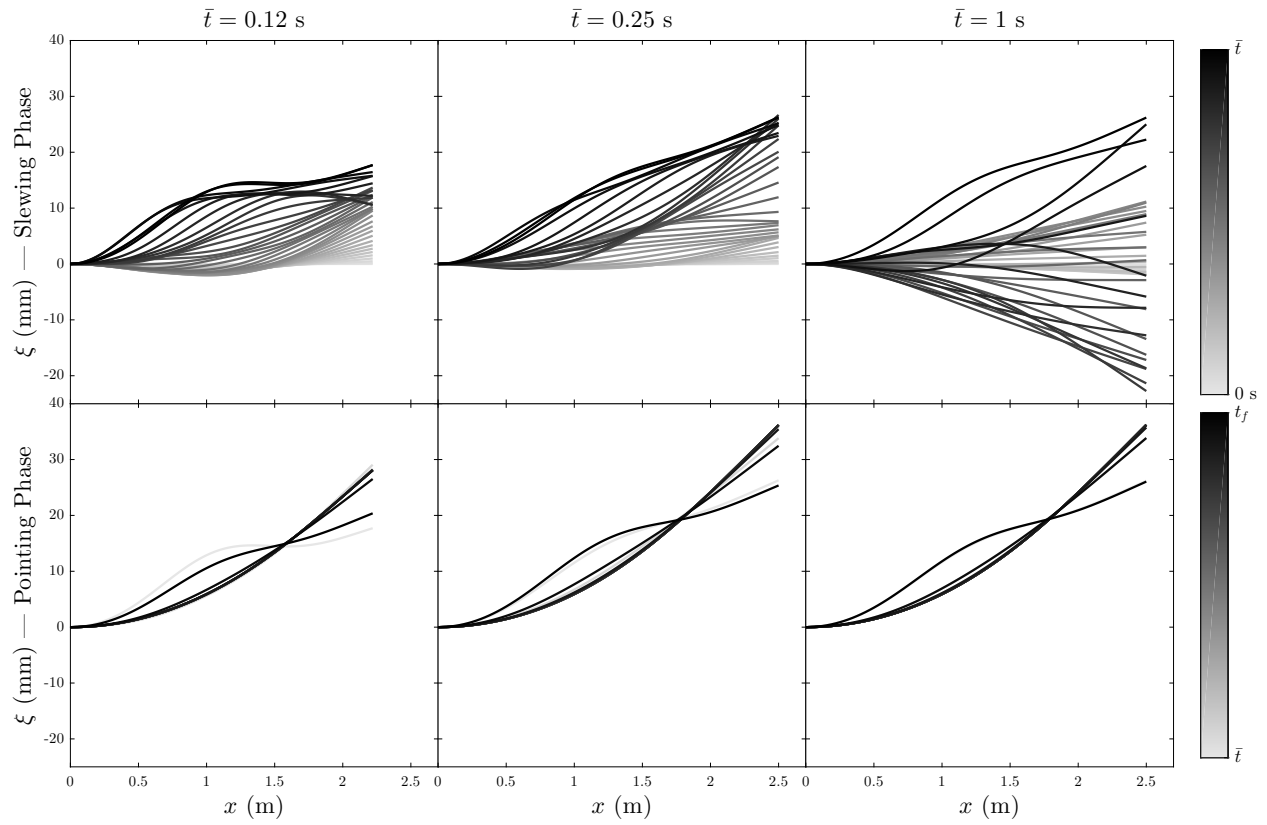
Figure 5b shows the array physical design evolution with respect to the slewing time. For longer slewing times ( $\geq 0.5$  s for the PLS case and  $\geq 0.25$  s for the VL case), the optimal array design maximizes the effective inertia ratio between the bus and the arrays subject to the given constraints. This array shape also corresponds to the maximum slew limits seen in the parametric study confirming the general result shown in Sec. IV.A. With this observation, we could define a cost proxy function for maximizing array inertia when we have long slewing times.<sup>24</sup> With shorter slewing times, however, we see more complex designs that do not maximize inertia. Since the analysis using the PRBDM model did not take into account the control system, we need an alternate explanation for these optimal arrays designs. To this end, an integrated analysis is performed that considers the synergy between natural passive dynamics (natural modes of the array, no control) and active (controlled) dynamics.

#### IV.C. Optimal Design Tradeoff for Array Structure

The periods of the first natural modes for the array designs of the PLS and VL cases are shown in Fig. 10 (the NG case is not considered as it does not involve any modifications of the physical array design). The dashed line is a reference that indicates whether one quarter of the period of the first natural frequency, denoted  $T_1/4$ , is longer (above) or shorter (below) than the given slewing time. We use the  $T_1/4$  line as a reference but the true relationship for this particular co-design formulation appears to be closer to  $T_1/4.2$ , and likely varies slightly based on problem parameters. Consider now the array design that maximizes the array moment of inertia, subject to the given constraints, for a given problem variation with a particular value for  $T_1$ . If this particular value for  $T_1/4$  is shorter than the slewing time, the maximum inertia design will be optimal and the optimal controller will utilize primarily the passive dynamics of the first structural mode to achieve an optimal slewing maneuver (and use higher-order modes partially). If  $T_1/4$  is longer than the given slewing time, the



(a) Piecewise Linear Segments (PLS).



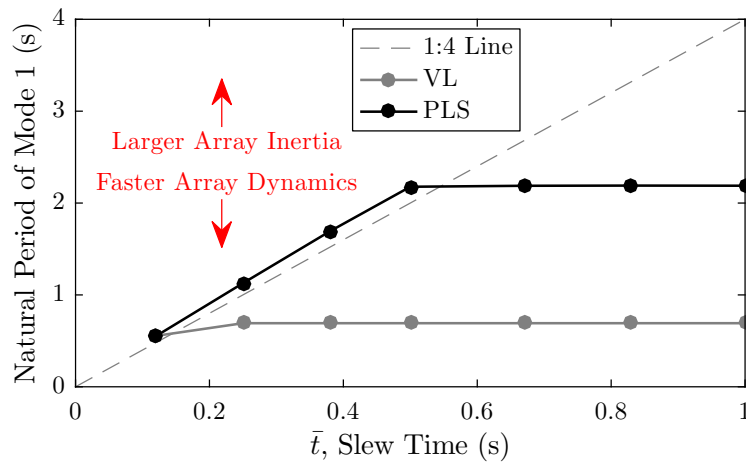
(b) Variable Length (VL).

Figure 9: Array deflection profiles for select values of  $\bar{t}$ .

maximal inertia array design can only make partial use of the first mode dynamics in the  
415 slewing direction during the given slewing horizon. In other words, the array dynamics now  
need to be faster to work synergistically with the active controller when the slewing time is  
reduced, and the relationship between  $\bar{t}$  and  $T_1$  is approximately linear due to simple scaling  
of the problem based on the time horizon. Co-design studies are ideal for determining this  
tradeoff since allowing simultaneous structural and control design freedom provides access to  
420 higher performance levels through synergistic structural and control design tailoring without  
major assumptions, i.e., the parameters for the array structure and open-loop control design  
are distributed. These results also reveal that the proxy objective function of maximizing  
inertia is not accurate for faster slew times.

In the cases where the optimal tradeoff is active, the optimal control trajectories include  
425 a bang-bang control near the root during the slewing phase, and the optimal array structure  
changes according to the given design freedom in Table 5. For the VL case, the only mecha-  
nism available for changing inertia and the first natural frequency is to adjust  $\ell$ , explaining  
the observed shorter array when  $\bar{t} = 0.12$  s (see Fig. 5b). For the PLS case, the inertia  
and the first natural frequency are changed by redistributing the mass and/or reducing the  
430 array length to utilize more fully a combination of the array's elastic and inertial properties.  
Observe that the array mass is not reduced, i.e., the mass constraint in Eq. (19i) is active.  
In addition to using the first natural mode, results indicate that the optimal solutions with  
shorter  $\bar{t}$  also tend to leverage the use of the second natural mode (refer to the increase in the  
coefficient of the second mode in Fig. 11). Tailoring of the structural design to best use the  
435 second mode is evident by the placement of a segment with local minimum thickness near  
the midpoint of the array length in Fig. 5b. The additional structural design freedom pro-  
vided by the PLS formulation vs. the VL formulation demonstrates the ability of a co-design  
formulation with more plant design freedom to tailor the passive dynamics of the system to  
achieve better performance.<sup>24</sup>



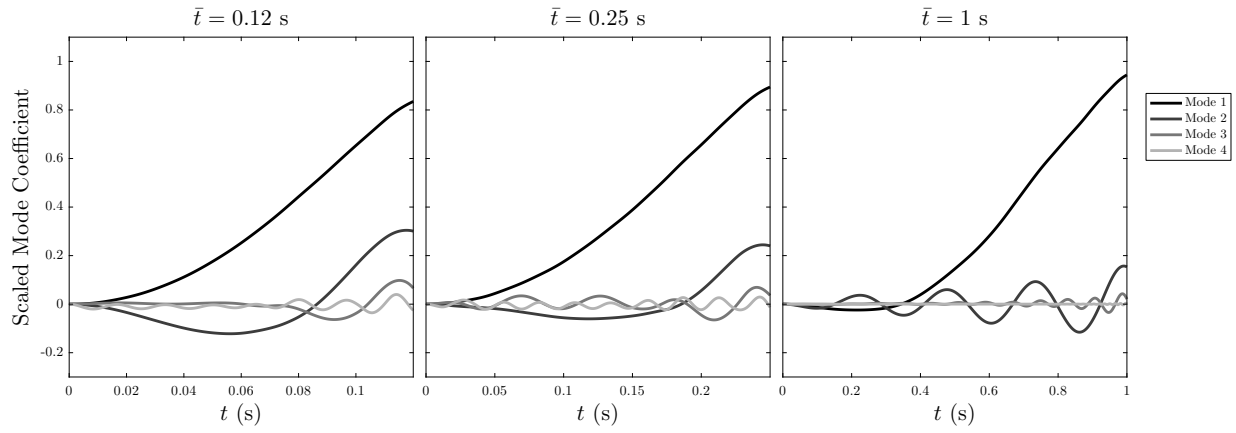


**Figure 10: Comparison between the first natural period of the optimal array designs and the slewing phase duration.**

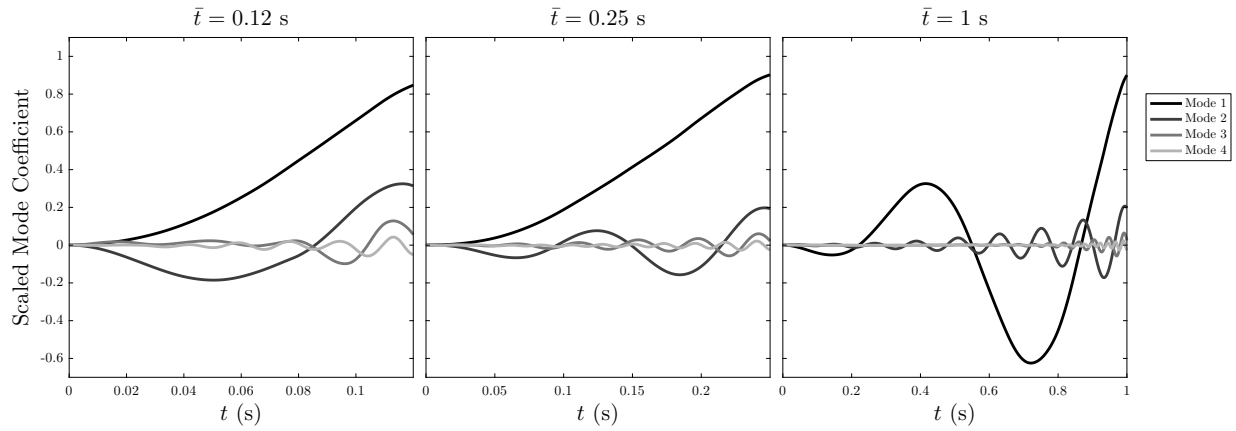
#### IV.D. Optimal Placement of Segmented Piezoelectric Actuators

A continuously variable, spatially distributed voltage is not a physically realizable actuation strategy, but these optimal trajectories provide insights into performance limits, as well as how a physically realizable strain actuation system should be designed. Continuous voltage variation can be approximated using several piezoelectric segments as shown in Fig. 3b, where a constant voltage  $V_i(t)$  is applied to each segment. An analysis of optimal voltage trajectories for the PLS and VL cases was performed to provide insight into actuator placement. Figure 12 illustrates for each spatial position along the array 1) the maximum voltage amplitude across all time, 2) the mean voltage amplitude during slewing, and 3) the mean voltage amplitude during pointing. The maximum allowable voltage magnitude is 300 V. For small  $\bar{t}$ , the actuators are nearly saturated during the slewing phase, and the voltage limit is reached at some point during the maneuver across most of the array. When the slewing times are longer, the lower average voltage magnitude during the slewing phase is due to the use of modal resonance.

We see that a physical implementation would benefit from placing piezoelectric segments over most of the array area with the exception of the tip. Since each piezoelectric segment can only be actuated with a voltage that is constant in space (not in time), a large number of individual segments translates into more degrees of freedom for the control, which in turn



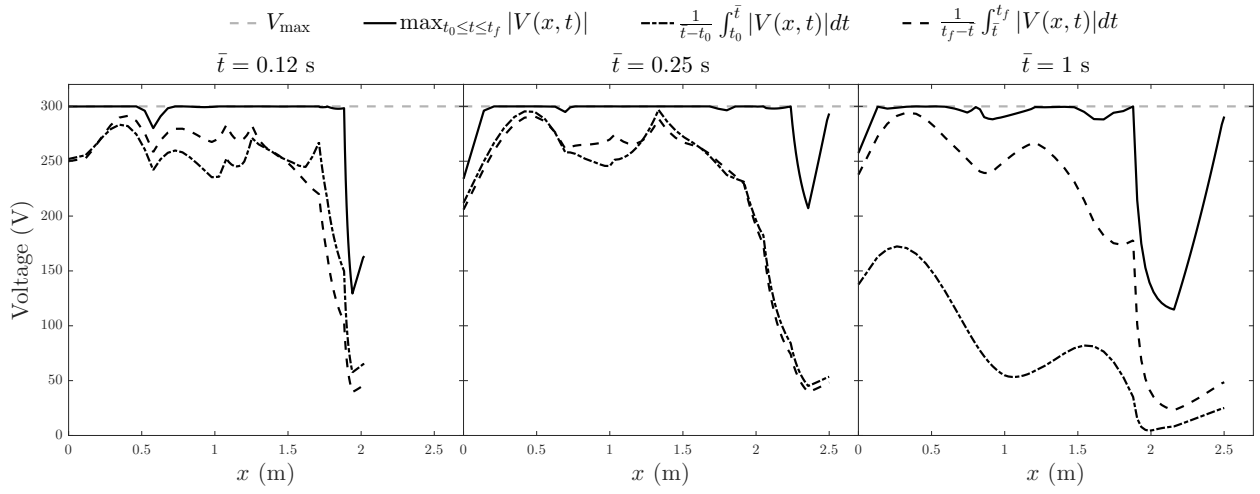
(a) Piecewise Linear Segments (PLS) design results.



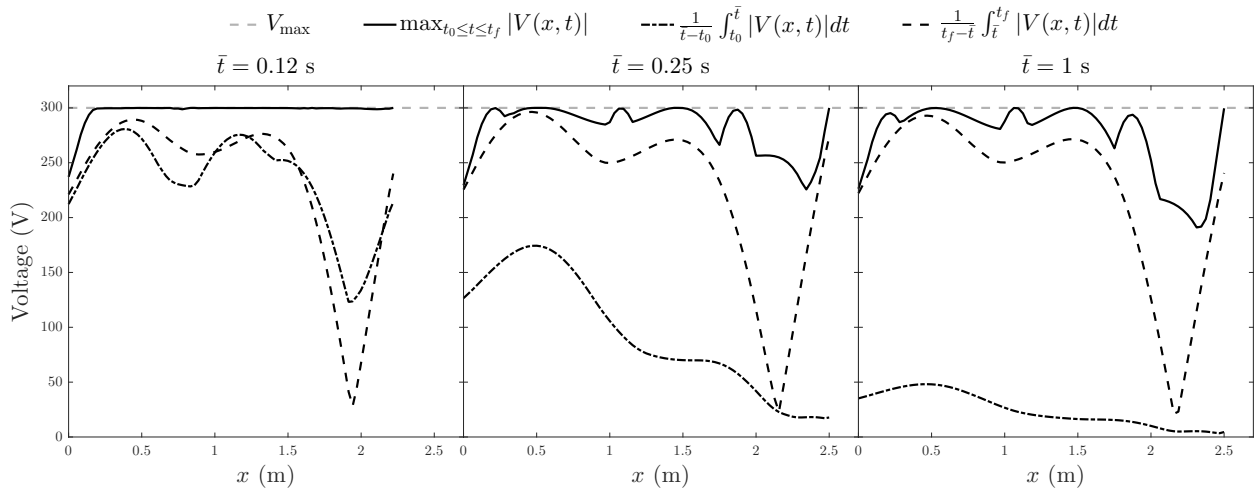
(b) Variable Length (VL) design results.

**Figure 11: Scaled mode coefficient trajectories for select values of  $\bar{t}$ .**

can allow higher performance. However, the voltage metrics suggest that at a minimum two piezoelectric segments should be placed at the two points of local maximum average voltage (which are located near the root and the length midpoint), to take advantage of the natural passive dynamics. These locations are near the critical points of the shapes of the first and second natural modes, which are the dominant modes during the slewing phase as shown in Fig. 11. The scaled mode coefficients in this figure indicate the relative contribution of each mode in their linearly combined effect on the array deflection. Future studies can include model actuation using individual piezoelectric segments with constant spatial voltage and limited length to determine their optimal placement location.



(a) Piecewise Linear Segments (PLS) design results.



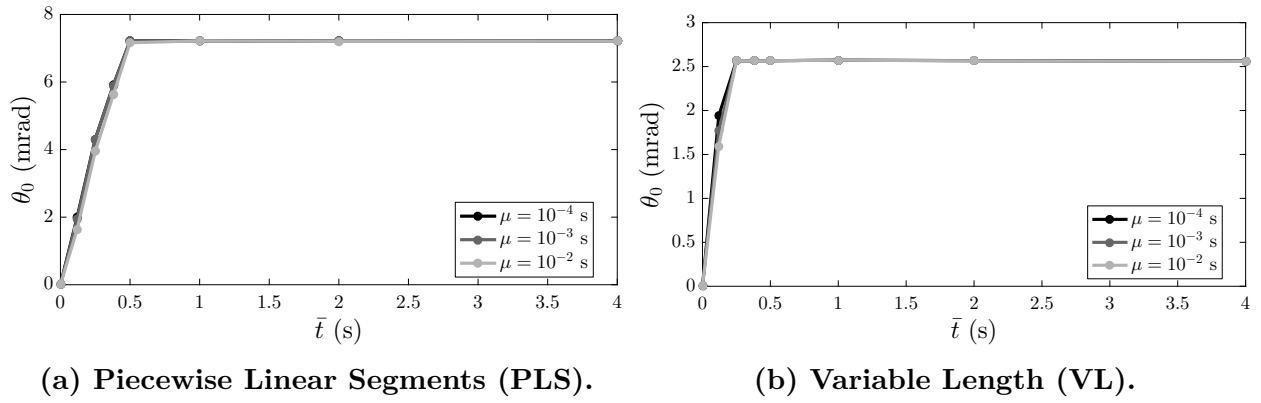
(b) Variable Length (VL) design results.

Figure 12: Voltage trajectory metrics for select values of  $\bar{t}$ .

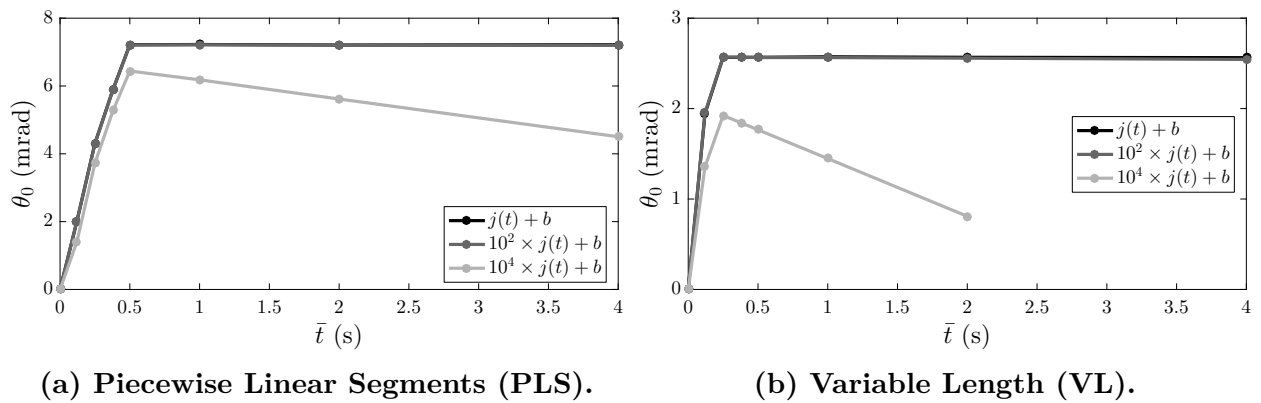
#### IV.E. Parametric Studies on Passive Damping and Jitter Disturbance

Additional studies were conducted to determine the effect of passive damping and jitter disturbance on the performance of the SASA control system. As described in Eq. (7) and Table (2), the solar array model includes a passive damping coefficient  $\mu$  with a nominal value of  $10^{-4}$  s. The equivalence between the coefficient  $\mu$  and the damping ratio  $\zeta$  of a second-order damped oscillator is shown in Eq. (23),

$$2\zeta_i = \mu\omega_i \quad (23)$$



**Figure 13: Parametric studies of maximum slewing angle with respect to slewing time and passive damping.**



**Figure 14: Parametric studies of maximum slewing angle with respect to slewing time and jitter disturbance.**

where  $\omega$  is the natural frequency of the array and the subscript  $i$  indicates the mode in consideration. Table (6) shows the respective damping ratios  $\zeta_1$  for a given value of the coefficient  $\mu$ . Figure 13 shows the results of the parametric study with respect to passive damping for the PLS and VL cases using the optimal array designs that were determined for the given slewing times and the nominal damping coefficient. Although the effect of increasing the passive damping in the system performance is minimal, the largest differences occur when the slewing times are small. As expected, the effect of the array passive damping is larger when the array displacement rate is higher. The study shows that the optimal performance of the SASA system is robust with respect to changes in the array passive damping.

Equation (19b) shows that the bus is subject to a nominal disturbance, which includes a

**Table 6: Damping ratio  $\zeta_1$  as a function of the coefficient  $\mu$ .**

Variation	Slewing time horizon (s)				
	0.12	0.25	0.38	0.5	1
PLS	$5.70\mu$	$2.79\mu$	$1.86\mu$	$1.44\mu$	$1.44\mu$
VL	$5.67\mu$	$4.54\mu$	$4.54\mu$	$4.54\mu$	$4.54\mu$

jitter component  $j(t)$  and a bias component  $b$ . The jitter component was varied parametrically to investigate its influence on optimal design. Figure 14 shows the results of this study for the PLS and VL cases using the optimal array designs that were determined for the given slewing times considering the nominal disturbance. For a disturbance factor of  $10^2 \times j(t)$ , the jitter is completely managed and the maximum slewing angle is maintained similar to the nominal case, i.e., there is limited performance loss even with this high amplitude disturbance. Increasing the disturbance factor further to  $10^4 \times j(t)$  reduces significantly the performance of the system, and the maneuvers are infeasible for the VL case with a slewing time of 4 s. PLS designs encounter feasibility problems when the disturbance factor is increased to  $10^5 \times j(t)$ . The VL case is affected more by the disturbance because of its smaller inertia. This additional study demonstrates that the high bandwidth SASA control system is robust in canceling large jitter disturbances while maintaining high precision pointing.

## V. Conclusions

In this work, we investigated the integrated structural and control system design of a strain-actuated solar array for spacecraft pointing control and jitter reduction. Slew maneuvers on the order of milli-radians or arc minutes have been achieved in simulations for a representative spacecraft system without increasing the total array mass or reducing the array planform area. A parametric study was conducted with different levels of design freedom and slewing times. Results show that separately designing the control system or the structural system alone cannot achieve the higher performance levels that are possible through the proposed combined design of the structural and control systems. Furthermore, adding degrees of freedom to the structural design—specifically, distributed geometric design—improved per-

formance further by tailoring the passive dynamics of the array with the active controller.

Since the SASA system is based on internal actuation, the angular momentum of the bus-array system must be conserved in the absence of material or joint damping. A desired bus rotation requires array deflection in the opposite direction. Results showed that in addition to accomplishing the required slewing and pointing maneuvers, the optimal array design is driven by the interaction between active and natural passive dynamics. Conservation analysis indicates that increasing the array moment of inertia helps improve the maximum slewing angle. An array design with maximum mass moment of inertia subject to the given constraints will be optimal if the slewing horizon is larger than a problem-dependent scaling of the first natural mode period of the array (approximately one quarter of this period), and the optimal controller will use modal resonance for an efficient slewing maneuver. For faster slew maneuvers, however, structural dynamics analysis reveals that it is beneficial to choose a tailored design that reduces inertia somewhat, but provides faster passive dynamics that interact with active control to increase the maximum slew angle. The optimal design here occurs when approximately one quarter of the period of the first natural mode is equal to the slewing time. This allows the passive dynamics to contribute to the maximization of the displacement of the first natural mode in the given slewing horizon, which in turn maximizes the slewing angle. In these cases, the resulting control design includes a bang-bang control near the root during the slewing phase. Results also show that the dynamic behavior of the array may be approximated by a PRBDM system with rigid links and joints. This connection helped provide qualitative insights into the design and behavior of intelligent structures with distributed actuation.

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